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University of Missouri-St. Louis

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UMSL'S INDEPENDENT STUDENT NEWS

## Ferguson unrest returns after grand jury decision

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

While the University of Missouri—St. Louis students had already begun Thanksgiving Break the story that has gripped the nation on the Michael Brown shooting in Ferguson continued to dominate the headlines and national debate. The violence which erupted on Monday following the release of the grand jury decision turned out to be worse than that experienced in August, following the shooting. Protests went nationwide and even worldwide. Here is a day by day breakdown of events of this past week, beginning with a press conference held on the UMSL campus.

On Monday, November 24, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon hosted a press conference in the J.C. Penny Conference Center Summit room at the UMSL at 5:30 p.m., just two and a half hours before the grand jury release. Governor Nixon was joined by St. Louis Mayor Francis Slay, St. Louis County Executive Charlie Dooley, and Public Safety Director for the State of Missouri Dan Isom. All speakers were urging peaceful protesting after the grand jury release in the Ferguson case.

The grand jury has been meeting since August 20, to decide whether to indict Officer Darren Wilson, who shot Michael Brown on August 9. The grand jury verdict was read at the Clayton Courthouse at 8 p.m. The verdict to not indict Wilson was released by St. Louis County Prosecuting Attorney Bob McCulloch at a closed media only filled room. McCulloch also announced that he was releasing all the evidence presented to the grand jury by posting it to a website for public review.

Violence erupted after the decision. A statement from Michael Brown's family urged peace, and President Obama addressed the nation at 9 p.m.



Cars burning in Auto By Credit on November 24

saying, "That [change] won't be done by throwing bottles. That won't be done by smashing car windows. That won't be done by using this as an excuse to vandalize property. It certainly won't be done by hurting anybody."

Police did not allow protestors to assemble in the street. Protestors lawfully assembled on the sidewalks. Gunshots were

heard throughout the neighborhood, preventing police and firefighters from stopping fires. A total of 25 stores were looted and damaged. 12 stores were burned during the night following the decision release. Trashcans, police cars, and a car dealer's 10 cars were also burned. Some protestors self policed violence and vandalism during the night protecting

some local businesses. Cathy's Diner was one of these businesses saved by a human chain preventing protestors from doing harm to the building.

Elsewhere in St. Louis, protestors assembled at I-44 and Grand shutting down both directions on the highway around 10 p.m. Eastbound I-44 was cleared around 11:20 p.m. Temporary flight restrictions into St.

Louis at the Lambert Airport had been put into place as of 11 p.m. The St. Louis Galleria closed at 6 p.m. Monday night and University City cancelled all activities and meetings on Monday night.

On Tuesday, November 25, Governor Nixon held a press conference at 1:30 a.m. along with Missouri Highway Patrol Captain Ron Johnson and St. Louis County Police Chief John Belmar. All were shocked at the amount of violence and vandalism. Nixon said that he deployed the National Guard to the Ferguson Police Department to help prevent more damage.

A police officer was shot in the University City Delmar Loop late into the night of November 24. The police officer was responding to a burglary in progress call that happened at 10 p.m. The police found a woman shot in the leg in her home. She was taken to the hospital, but later died. Three police officers approached the house looking for the shooter and one was shot in the chest. That police officer was taken to the hospital and is in a stable, serious condition. The shooter was found and killed on November 26 by 2 FBI agents.

All St. Louis public schools were closed on November 25, along with other schools in the area.

A body was found around 9 a.m. on November 25 of an unidentified male unresponsive in a car parked near Canfield Drive, where Brown was killed. In Ferguson, 61 arrests were made during the night and all but 2 were from the St. Louis metro area. In the city of St. Louis, 21 arrests were made. Windows along South Grand were smashed and police are said to have used tear gas there as well.



Mayor Francis Slay speaking at Governor Nixon's press conference on November 24

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THE CURRENT ONLINE

Staying safe while holiday shopping

WILL PATTERSON  
CRIME REPORTER

During the holiday season, many people will be out spending money on gifts for loved ones. In addition to people taking advantage of deals, there will be people taking advantage of others by using the opportunity for their own nefarious purposes, such as theft. Here are a few tips to avoid being a victim this holiday season.

1. Do not leave any valuables in plain sight. This seems simple and is told all year, but this is more important during the holiday season. Some people like to leave gifts they have bought in the car or in the windows of their home. If you do need to keep packages in your car, keep them out of sight by covering them or keeping them in the trunk. When gifts are left in plain sight, it can lead to break-ins and thefts.

2. Try to carry less cash. With it being the holiday season, people know that more people are out with extra spending money and may want some of it. Cash may be safer to spend (because of security breaches), but if you have your credit or debit card stolen, you can make a phone call and have it deactivated.

3. Only use ATMs that are in well-lit areas, preferably ones where you can remain in your vehicle and observe if there appears to be anyone lurking near the machine.

4. If pushing a cart through a store, do not leave your purse or phone in the cart where it can be easily grabbed while your attention is focused on items you may want to purchase. Experts advise the best place to keep a purse is on your shoulder with the strap across your body.

5. Park in well-lit areas. The last thing you want to do is walk to your car in a dimly-lit area holding tons of shopping bags. Also, have your keys ready to open your vehicle and remember where you park so you do not have to wander around the parking lot. If there are people around your vehicle and you feel uncomfortable, go back in the store and see if someone from the store or security will accompany you to your car.

6. Beware of holiday scam artists. Some people take this time to take advantage of people’s holiday generosity. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is.

7. Law enforcement experts advise if someone does try to snatch your purse or wallet, do not to try to resist, as these items can be replaced and may not be worth having physical harm done to you. But, do try to observe everything you can about the perpetrator and call 911 as soon as you can, so the police can handle it.

8. Beware of people approaching you on store parking lots. If someone asks you to come to his or her car to help them with something, instead say you will send help out from the store, because he or she may be trying to lure you to the vehicle in order to rob you.

Ferguson unrest returned November 24

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

**Continued from Page 1**

Hundreds of protestors peacefully shut down I-44 on November 25 from 12 p.m. to about 2 p.m. walking from Kiener Plaza to the St. Louis Court House in downtown St. Louis. Protestors then tried to shut down the highway near the Edward Jones Dome, and, according to the police, bottles were thrown from the protestors and they were dispersed.

Governor Nixon held another press conference around 2 p.m. on November 25. There he announced the deployment of 1500 more National Guard to the original 700 from November 24 to help keep protesting peaceful and protect property and people in Ferguson.

On Tuesday night, 44 protesters were arrested. At 11 p.m. rioters flipped and burned a police car in front of Ferguson City Hall. A car near the Michael Brown memorial was set on fire and gunfire prevented police to respond to the car. The St. Louis Thanksgiving Day Parade had been rescheduled due to the protesting as well.

Two “The New York Times” journalists, Julie Bosman and Cambell Robertson, released Darren Wilson’s address, endangering his, his new wife’s, and expected baby’s lives. Charles Johnson in turn posted the two journalists’ addresses at Got-news.

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LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Letters to the editor should be brief, and those not exceeding 250 words will be given preference. We edit letters for clarity and length, not for dialect, correctness, intent, or grammar. All letters must be signed and must include a daytime phone number. Students must include their student ID numbers. Faculty and staff must include their title(s) and department(s). The Editor-in-Chief reserves the right to respond to letters. The Current reserves the right to deny letters.

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THE UNDERCURRENT By Ashlee Carlstrom

WHAT IS YOUR FAVORITE THANKSGIVING DISH?



CHRIS NORMAN,  
Junior Psychology and  
Criminal Justice  
“Ham or the stuffing. My  
aunt also makes awesome  
rolls.”



JOE KUCZKA,  
Senior, Criminal Justice  
“I would say turkey and  
mashed potatoes.”



CRISTINA BARTON,  
Junior, Chemistry  
“Well the turkey, of course.”





# Ferguson unrest returns after grand jury decision

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Continued from Page 2

In response to the unrest in Ferguson, a curfew was in effect in East St. Louis from 6 p.m. to 6 a.m. from November 25 through December 1 for people 17 and under.

On Wednesday, November 26, two arrests were made overnight as protestors gathered outside the Ferguson Police Department. Police are looking for the person or persons who took an AR-15 from a police car that was flipped and torched the night before.

Protestors gathered at Kiener Plaza at 10:30 a.m., then walked to the old courthouse, then to city hall with police blocking the roads for the pro-

testors. Once at St. Louis City Hall, three tried to gain entry and were arrested.

Two Special Agents from the FBI were shot around 2:53 a.m. Wednesday morning after helping University City Police track a murder suspect. The suspect was Major Washington, wanted for shooting three officers, including two FBI agents, and the shooting and killing of his mother after a break-in on November 25.

On Tuesday, agents got a tip that Washington was hiding out in unincorporated St. Louis in the 1800 block of North Hanley. Washington was barricaded in the house and the agents had to call for backup. One of the



Screenshot of protesters taking over I-44 from livestreamer Tebelutionary Z



Quiet outside the justice center in Clayton Missouri Monday evening

agents was shot in the arm and the other the leg. Neither of the wounds were life threatening. Washington was found dead Wednesday afternoon. It is not clear how Washington died yet.

Singer Garth Brooks cancelled his appearance on the “Tonight” show on November 26 because it “seemed distasteful” to appear on the show after the grand jury decision. Brooks did not want to spend the day promoting his show and ignore what happened. He was replaced with Whoopi Goldberg and Tom Colicchio. Brooks has offered to reschedule but nothing is confirmed. Brooks did not cancel his show in St. Louis.

On Thursday, November 27, Thanksgiving Day, no arrests were made. Volunteers dropped off food for the National Guard who had to work over the holiday. Volunteers also gathered at churches to help in soup kitchens and others gath-

ered on South Florissant and South Grand to help vandalized businesses board up windows and clean up vandalism.

Protestors disrupted Black Friday shopping for stores that were open on Thanksgiving. Protestors were at Target and Wal-Mart in Brentwood, two Wal-Marts in St. Charles, and one Wal-Mart in Manchester. In Maplewood and Kirkwood, police and National Guard members were present in case of escalated violence.

On Friday, November 28, demonstrators used social media hashtag #NotOneDime, #Blacklivesmatter, and #Stl-blackfriday to stage a “Die In” at the Galleria and other malls on Black Friday. The “Die In” consisted of protestors lying on the ground in remembrance for those who were killed. Demonstrators met at Shaw Park then were told to go to the Galleria around 10 a.m. Stores closed

gates and doors as about 200 to 300 protestors moved past the stores. Two Macy’s employees came out to lead a chant. The mall closed to let everyone leave. Protestors stayed outside the mall to march for about 90 minutes after. The mall reopened about two hours later.

Protestors were at the Galleria, Chesterfield, and West County malls throughout the day with the intent to close the malls. West County Mall was closed for about fifteen minutes around 4:30 p.m. About 100 protestors were at the Chesterfield Mall and it was closed from about 7 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Protestors gathered outside of Ferguson Police Department once again. A police officer was injured during the protests overnight. That night 16 arrests were made and only one arrested was from St. Louis.

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## Dellwood overshadowed by Ferguson’s unrest

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

Mayor Reggie Jones of Dellwood held a press conference on November 28 at 12 p.m. in front of Fashions R Boutique at 9844 West Florissant that was burned Monday night. He was joined by members of Dellwood Council, as well as State Senator Gina Walsh, State Representative Tommie Peirson, State Representative Rochelle Walton Gray, and Urban League President Mike McMillan to discuss the unrest in Ferguson and its effect on Dellwood.

Dellwood is the neighboring community to Ferguson and many of the local businesses that were burned and looted Monday were in the city of Dellwood, not Ferguson. Unlike Ferguson, which has a predominately African Ameri-

can population and which the mayor, most of the council, and police force are white, Dellwood is represented by an African American mayor and majority council. The previous mayor of Dellwood also dissolved the local Dellwood Police Department, and the community has a contract with the St. Louis County Police Department to provide police services.

Racial disparity may have been a factor that contributed to Dellwood opting to go with the St. Louis County Police Department in 2012, at least according to a lawsuit brought against the city for racial discrimination by some of the former officers. While the focus of the frustration and anger over the Michael Brown shooting

has been focused on Ferguson, not as much attention has been focused on how the spill-over of violence has impacted neighboring Dellwood.

The mayor was assured that the Missouri National Guard would be on hand to protect the businesses, but failed to appear. Mayor Jones said about 10 percent of Dellwood’s business district was set on fire or looted. Mayor Jones hopes to address four issues in the near future to help Dellwood’s business community:

1. Demand answers as to why the Missouri National guard was not here to protect Dellwood when they had been assured they would be.
2. Ask that Dellwood not be forgotten when it comes to

resources to help with the recovery of these businesses, which Jones describes as the fabric of the community.

3. Ask for State and Federal funds to rebuild.
4. Make sure the voices of our local business owners are heard. Mayor Jones is requesting copies of the orders of the National Guard to see who was at fault for the lack of help from the State of Missouri.

“Public safety is the first responsibility of government. Without public safety you have anarchy and crimes of opportunity. Criminals were ready to loot and burn businesses Monday night. What I and the people of my community demand to know is why our Missouri National Guard was

not ready, or why the decision was made not to deploy them to Dellwood. If certain areas were deliberately left to fend for themselves that needs to come to light along with the motivation for doing so,” the Mayor said.

Governor Nixon announced that there will be \$625,000 of zero interest loans available, along with other loans for small businesses, through the federal Small Business Administration on November 28.

Jones said, “We don’t want forgivable loans, we want some funds to speed up the process, because these guys are ready to come back.”



# UMSL Student founds St Louis Art for Autism

LORI DRESNER  
STAFF WRITER

University of Missouri—St. Louis student Charles Mooneyham is giving back to children who are trying to overcome life's obstacles. Mooneyham founded Saint Louis Art for Autism LLC, a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping children with autism. Established in 2006, Saint Louis Art for Autism provides grants for children with autism who cannot afford treatment. The program raises money through art exhibitions, sponsorships, and donations, with 60% of profits being donated to services and treatment for children with autism, 25% going to the original artist, and 15% going back to the company to cover expenses and continue its mission. Saint Louis Art for Autism also offers an art club and classes for children with disabilities.

Mooneyham started Saint Louis Art for Autism because he once struggled with learning disabilities himself. As a child, he underwent therapy for an unspecified learning disability, and while in school he faced ridicule from his classmates over his disability. This was when his feelings of inferiority began. "Being told I was not smart enough followed me all the way to high school, and the feeling that I was not smart enough followed me well into my young adult life," said Mooneyham. He went on to attend Belleville Area College, now Southwestern Illinois College, where he earned an associate degree in art.



Charles Mooneyham and his partner Jon Ross were married this November by Dr. Jennifer Siciliani, professor of psychology at UMSL

In his young adult life, Mooneyham struggled with addiction and alcoholism. He credits art with saving his life. "Art had become an outlet for emotional

regulation and a coping mechanism to deal with a lot of these stressors," said Mooneyham. "In many aspects, art, in my life, laid the foundation for self-esteem, leisure skills, and my first taste at accomplishment," he said.

In 2006, the same year he dedicated his life to helping children with autism, Mooneyham became sober, and began working as an applied behavioral analysis therapist (ABA). He said that this was the year his life began to come full circle. Not long after, he met his future partner, Jonathon "Jon" Ross. They became engaged on December 24, 2010.

Mooneyham began attending UMSL in Fall 2013. He originally planned to pursue a degree in social work with a minor in psychology. After being in a general psychology class taught by, then, adjunct psychology instructor Laurie Baker, Mooneyham befriended her. He now credits her with guiding him towards a path in Behavioral Neuroscience. "I started to see the connections between neuroscience and ABA—this only intensified my passion for the subject," said Mooneyham.

Through Baker, Mooneyham also met UMSL psychology professor Dr. Jennifer Siciliani, and is taking her evolutionary psychology class this semester. He happened to be waiting for her class to start on November 5, 2014, the very day same-sex marriage became legalized in Missouri. Mooneyham was perusing his Facebook feed when he first began seeing comments about the legalization. Dr. Siciliani spoke to the class that day about the legalization, and being an ordained minister, offered to marry any couple at no charge. Mooneyham sat down with Dr. Siciliani outside of class, and Mooneyham and Ross's wedding was arranged soon after.

Mooneyham and Ross were married by Dr. Siciliani on November 11, 2014 at Corvid's Cafe in South St. Louis. There were 50 people in attendance, including many of their family and friends. Mooneyham's father, whom he had not seen in 26 years, signed the couple's witness statement. "Every facet of my life was within someone in that room," said Mooneyham. "I never thought I'd get to see [the legalization] while I was alive. It was like the stars were lining up."

Moving forward, Mooneyham plans to pursue a Master's degree in behavioral neuroscience. He does not want to limit himself to working only with the spectrum of autism, but wants to expand his work into other fields of learning and behavioral disabilities. Ross is currently on a similar path, attending St. Charles Community College, with plans to pursue psychiatric nursing.

Despite the obstacles, Mooneyham believes his life has come full circle and has turned out for the best. Dr. Siciliani said "[Mooneyham] being one of the first people to have a same-sex marriage in Missouri is one of the least interesting things about him. There is so much more to him."

A constant reminder of the obstacles he has overcome is the ring Mooneyham wears, with the words, "Live and let live." He believes that these words are a testament to his life story. "My life has been insane, but it's who I am today," said Mooneyham. "I have a career, I am married and have had many successes in my life. As we move forward, I don't see anything but the best."

Mooneyham's website is [www.stlouisartforautism.com](http://www.stlouisartforautism.com) and he can be contacted at [Charles@SaintLouisArt-ForAutism.com](mailto:Charles@SaintLouisArt-ForAutism.com).



COURTESY OF CHARLES MOONEYHAM

"Drummer Boy" by Charles Mooneyham created for Saint Louis Art for Autism LLC



# University Singers and Vocal Point kick off the Holidays

CHRISTIAN DEVERGER  
STAFF WRITER

The University of Missouri - St. Louis music program put together an amazing show this past week with the performance of both the Vocal Point and University Singers choral groups. The show was held in the Blanche M. Touhill Performing Arts Center Anheuser-Busch Hall on November 17 at 7:30 p.m. Each group performed a number of pieces that were exceptionally pleasing to hear and a treat to see in person while Dr. James Henry did an excellent job conducting the production.

The show kicked off with the Vocal Point performance, the smaller and more selective of the two groups. Conducted by Dr. Henry, Vocal Point performed six pieces, beginning with the classical sound of “Moro, lasso, al Mio” by Carlo Gesualdo da Venosa, and moving to pieces like “One Hand, One Heart” from “West Side Story” and the Pentatonix version of “Run to You.” The set closed with the spiritual “Sinner Man” and a solo from

senior Nathan Johnston. The set also included a solo from Chaz McPeck, junior, music.

After the excellent set from Vocal Point, there was a brief intermission. However, before the break, two of UMSL’s men’s quartets performed a handful of songs. First was the group, Tailor Made, consisting of Mason Scott, sophomore, music; Peter Billing, senior, music; Tommy Edler, junior, music; and Jacob Teasley, sophomore, music. They performed two songs. “What Will I Do?” and “Mary Lou.” A second quartet also performed right after, which consisted of Rhett Roberts, sophomore, music; Jade Mitchell, Chaz McPeck, and Nathan Johnston, senior, music. The second quartet performed the song “Any Time.” Both groups did a great job showcasing UMSL’s diverse group of vocal performers and getting the crowd engaged in the performance.

Following the intermission, the larger of the two choir groups, University Singers,



Vocal Point performs at the Touhill Stage

began their performance, again conducted by Dr. Henry, and accompanied by pianist Donna Pyron. The set began with “Os Justi” by Anton Bruckner and moved into multiple other choir pieces. In a unique twist, the group performed one song in Mandarin Chinese, catching the audience off guard in the best of ways. The song titled “I Am

Flying” incorporated a number of unique vocal techniques that are seldom heard in western music. University Singer’s set closed with the song “Ask the Watchman” which featured Matthew Clark, junior, music on percussion, and a solo from Chris Stanfill, junior, music.

The work and practice that both groups put into their

performance definitely paid off. The show was full of diverse music from many different backgrounds and was a great way to get in the mood for the holiday season. The university’s music program has yet to disappoint, and continues to set high standards in terms of quality musical performance.

# MADCO dance commemorates fall of Berlin Wall

JILL HARDY  
STAFF WRITER



MADCO performs ‘Wallstories’ at the Tohill Stage

MADCO’s “Wallstories” was a moving theatrical dance performance from November 14 to 16 at the Blanche M. Touhill Lee Theater that commemorated the 25 year anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Through music, dance and imagery, a symbolic representation of the history of East and West Germany came alive. At the beginning of the performance on November 14 at 8 p.m., the audience was introduced to the dancers on stage with the voice of President Kennedy in “Intro: Ermute’s Mem-

ory and Kennedy” His voice and the presence of the dancers brought a certain nostalgia to a piece that was already brewing with historical significance.

Before the show, patrons were exposed to a little bit of the history with historical boards that contained pictures of many people that were instrumental in the movement of communism, socialism or anti-semitism during that time period. Each board presented a biography of the individual whose photograph was on the board.

Each dance segment in this presentation was a reenactment of the history of the Berlin Wall, the emotions that evolved around the history and the culture during that time period (before and after the fall).

In “Honcker and Brezhnev’s Secret,” the audience was exposed to two men, lip-locked in a passionate embrace with one holding a bubble machine. While they kissed and embraced, bubbles circulated around the stage while the dancers obliviously perform around them. The music for “Honecker and Brezhnev’s” was a song called “Berlin Wall” by Larson and Sherman, one of only two songs that wasn’t by Pink Floyd that was used for the piece.

Throughout the presentation, dancers could be seen wearing trench coats, lined up like soldiers and falling to the floor as though they have been shot. When the trench coats came off, the men were dressed in gray vested suits with white long-sleeved shirts and the woman were wearing light short dresses of a different era - all in different colors.

Different aspects of Berlin’s history and culture were conveyed by dancers running up a wall, gray skies on the big screen representative of East Germany, and women dancers

coming to the aid of their fallen men which was gracefully exemplified in the piece called “The Government, Mother Russia, my Mother, your Mother.” The dancers were also crawling up the shoulders of other dancers as though they were crawling up the wall of Berlin but kept falling down.

During one segment, a solo dance mimicked the movement of the choreographer in the audience as though she were dancing with her own reflection. Perhaps that symbolized all that she knew before the wall came down due to the division of culture and politics.

The show closed with a piece called “For the People of Berlin.” The music was “Cello Suite No. 6” by Johan Sebastian Bach. This dance was joyous and exuberant. The dancers were all smiling, and there was a spirit of freedom in the dance as the Wall was coming down.

The choreography was by Nejla Y. Yarkin, a native of Germany. In the program notes, the choreographer described her inspiration, which came while she was filming a dance piece in Potsdamer Platz in Berlin. It was morning and few people were about. “While I was dancing in the empty place, suddenly I went through time-shift: traveling back to 1990, I remem-

bered ‘The Wall’ concert live on Potsdamer Platz with...Roger Waters from Pink Floyd. I went back further to 1989, when the place was still called ‘No-Man’s Land’ and when the city was still divided into East and West. Suddenly, it struck me that at that time my dance would not have been possible...dancing freely was not an option back then. The Wall, the barbed wire and the black market would have been in my way.”

At the end of the performance, MADCO executive and artistic director Stacey West, choreographer Yarkin and others gathered on the stage to explain certain aspects of the performance regarding its depiction of certain historical aspects of east and west Germany. During that session, West stated that the objective of MADCO Dance Company is to take a topic and move people in a way that other ways can’t. MADCO has done a 9-11 piece, a Bosnian piece, and a Jackie Joyner Kersee piece.

Yarkin recalled the vast differences of each side of the wall. West Berlin was colorful and decorated with graffiti on the Wall with vibrant colors all over, while everything in East Berlin was gray. Audience members also shared memories of Berlin before the Wall came down.



# Men's Basketball Remains Undefeated

ERIC HARRIS  
SPORTS EDITOR

While we were all on break, University of Missouri- St. Louis's men's basketball team went to work. They hosted two games over fall break and successfully kept their undefeated streak alive. On Saturday, November 22, after the Women's UMSL Classic, the men's team took on Robert Morris University. The Tritons overpowered the Eagles with a final score of 73-60 in this season's home opener. After the first half, UMSL had a solid lead of 37-25. In the second half, Tritons saw a more competitive Eagles team with a score of 36-35, but still in UMSL's favor. Accumulating twenty five minutes of playing time, Kevin Swanson, junior, fine arts, put up 22 points against RMU. Aareon Smith, senior, business, had a .69 free throw percentage making 9 of 13 attempts. Smith contributed 19 points to the victory. UMSL forced 19 turnovers and held a 44.4 shooting percentage over the Eagles. Tuesday, November 25, the



UMSL Triton Neil Branham goes to work during the season

men's team took on Benedictine University of Springfield in the Mark Twain Building. After an outstanding first half, the Tritons led Benedictine-Springfield 49-23. Thirteen of the

points from the first half came from Derek Shouse, senior, business, who scored another 7 to give him a new season high of 18 points. The second half showed to be a more competi-

tive game with a 40-38 score in the Tritons' favor, bringing the final score to an 89-61 victory over the Bulldogs. UMSL had a 47.6 shooting percentage from the field.

This week, the men's team hosts Concord University on Tuesday, December 2, at 7 p.m. and Central Christian College this Friday, December 5, in the Mark Twain Building.

# Women's basketball posts four game win streak

ERIC HARRIS  
SPORTS EDITOR

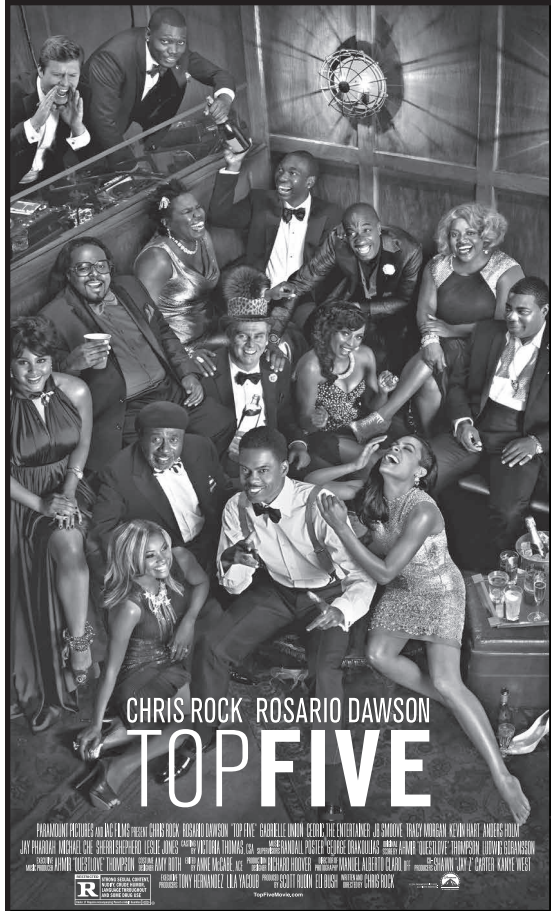
After returning from the Puerto Rico Classic, the Triton women's team has posted a three game win streak over the past few weeks. The Tritons hosted the University of Missouri-St. Louis Classic on Friday, November 21 and Saturday, November 22 in the Mark Twain Building. On Friday, the Tritons took on the Lincoln University's Blue

Tigers. The first half ended with a close score of 41-36 in favor of the Tritons. The Tritons took a quick lead scoring the game's first 13 points. Both Tierra Snow, senior, social work, and Kelly McGovern, senior, special education, contributed 10 points each against Lincoln. Snow recorded 12 rebounds and McGovern getting 11. Alexis

Lawrence, senior, business finance, scored 20 points to help lead the Tritons to the eventual 72-57 victory over Lincoln University in UMSL's home opener. On day two of the UMSL Classic, the Tritons took on the Mavericks of Minnesota State University. Lawrence led the Tritons scoring 19 points. Amber Daly, junior, clinical

psychology, followed with 16 and Snow with 13. The Tritons held a 46.6 shooting percentage over the Mavericks in their 83-68 victory. On Friday, November 28, in Lebanon, Illinois, the Tritons increased their win streak to four games when taking on Trevecca Nazarene. Snow recorded 15 points to the 62-47

victory over the Trojans. The Tritons jumped ahead early with a 12-4 lead. The Tritons take on St. Louis University in an exhibition game next Saturday on the SLU campus. They follow that with an in-town rivalry game versus Lindenwood University on December 13.



The Current

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TOP FIVE OPENS IN THEATERS DECEMBER 12<sup>TH</sup>

Tritons

in Town:

Tuesday the 2nd- Men's Basketball @ 7 p.m.

Friday the 5th- Men's Basketball @ 7 p.m.

Saturday the 6th- Women's Basketball at St. Louis University @ 2 p.m.



# Marijuana debate knocks at the door

CULLEN WILLIAMS  
STAFF WRITER

Over the past semester, there have been a number of anti-drug organizations passing out anti-marijuana literature in the Millennium Student Center. These pamphlets contain multiple statistics meant to negatively influence a college student’s view toward cannabis. Because of the initiative and petitions submitted by the pro-cannabis group “Show-Me Cannabis” to fully legalize cannabis, I expect that these groups will increase their visits to the University of Missouri – St. Louis and many other college campuses in the coming months.

Though I do not personally use cannabis, I support legalization because I support individual liberty and freedom. Further-

more, legalization, though the anti-marijuana groups will deny these facts, is a way to keep marijuana out of the hands of the youth. Currently there are no regulations. If a middle school student wants to get high, he or she simply has to find someone to sell him or her marijuana. That would not be the case with legalization. Cannabis shops will not put their legitimate business license at risk to sell to a minor. If you doubt these facts, look at the data coming out of Colorado.

Furthermore, legalizing cannabis would take billions out of the hands of drug-cartels and into the hands of respectable business owners, as well as into the hands of the state of Mis-

souri. The White House, who has not given a straight answer on its stance, has stated that Americans spend nearly \$35 billion dollars on cannabis per year. A huge chunk is going to drug-cartels and gang leaders.

Anyone who supports keeping cannabis illegal supports the idea of funding drug-cartels. Prohibition did not keep alcohol out of people’s hands. However, it did help individuals like Al Capone and other notorious gangsters fill the streets with the blood of law enforcement officials and citizens alike. As soon as we legalize cannabis, we wipe out the black market. In turn, this will most likely end many of the gangs.

Though there are many

groups and individuals who will argue that legalization is the beginning of the end, this is simply not the case. Above I listed two simple reasons why cannabis legalization would be beneficial to our state. However, these are not the only reasons. There are many more. Besides keeping cannabis out of the hands of the youth, increasing state revenue and depleting the pocketbook of drug-cartels, legalization would put an end to a costly drug war that benefits politicians and takes away resources from other government agencies. It would jumpstart a hemp industry that would create thousands of products and it would end prescription overdose deaths.

I encourage those interested in this debate to read the data and statistics coming out of states such as Washington and Colorado. The “reefer madness” that has infected the country over the past decades needs to come to an end. I encourage incoming freshman and sophomore students who support legalization to start a National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws (NORML) chapter on the University of Missouri – St. Louis campus. It is one of the easiest ways for college students to get excited about making a change for the better. Together we can legalize liberty.

## Taking back feminism

LOTTE JØNSSON  
STAFF WRITER

Jennifer Lawrence. Kirsten Dunst. Shailene Woodley. Kelly Clarkson. Lady Gaga. Madonna. What do you think they have in common? They are all celebrities? People look up to them? They are well-respected within their field? Still have not figured it out?

They have all said they do not believe in feminism. As a woman, as a feminist, these statements have disappointed me again and again. Especially, considering the fact that the reason many of these women do not consider themselves feminist, is because they seem to have gotten it all wrong in the

first place.

Many of these women say they do not believe in feminism because they are not against men. That goes straight to the point that feminism has become a dual or fight between men and women. Feminists are perceived as the women who hate men and burn their bras in public. But, that is just not true.

A feminist is “a person who believes in the social, political and economic equality of sexes.” Emma Watson, the Harry Potter actress, spoke of this at the UN a couple of months ago. Her speech was one of the newer breaks in the way society has

been viewing feminism the last couple of years. Her message was clear: Men need to stand up as well, if we are to fight inequality between the sexes. She kicked off the quite popular social media campaign #heforshe, where men like Harry Styles, Jared Leto, and Russell Crowe have stood up and supported the campaign.

Emma Watson’s campaign is a step in the right direction. But, the people (both men and women) need to take back feminism to its intended meaning: equality between the sexes. We need to fight inequality on both sides. It is not just about fight-

ing the fact that women earn 77 cents to the dollar of what men earn, or getting more women in politics. It is also about men conquering areas normally associated as “feminine.” For example, men should be able to take more paternity leave if they wish. Today, only 10-15% of employers offer paternity leave in America, according to Scott Coltrane, a professor at the University of Oregon. Depressed men are also more prone to commit suicide. Many suggest it is because men do not seek the help they need.

I think it is important to realize that our perception of

feminism needs to change. Even though we are better off than we were before, there is still a long way to go when it comes to the equality of both sexes, in both, terms of policy and the way we perceive each other. I want to be able to tell people that I am a feminist without them thinking, “She must be a hard worker.” I want people to interpret feminism the same as saying, “Yeah, I have a car.” I want it to be so normal that not saying it would be perceived as outside the norm.

## UMSL profits on students’ futures burning

ERIC WYNEN  
DESIGN EDITOR

In spite of the security, a degree would provide for the futures of its students. University of Missouri – St. Louis has loaded its financial portfolio with investments that burn any sense of future security. UMSL pools its funds together with those of University of Missouri – Kansas City, Missouri Science & Technology, and Missouri University (Mizzou) into the treasury of the University of Missouri System (UMS), which in turn invests member schools’ monies into the fossil fuel industry.

I enquired to the Office of the Treasure of the UMS for details about the investments, a comprehensive review of the portfolio, and Thomas Richards, Treasurer and Chief Investment

Officer, responded, “We do not have ready access to most of the data you seek ... funds, which total in excess of \$4 billion in invested assets, are invested through external managers... [They] have full investment discretion with respect to the funds that they manage on our behalf ... In line with our fiduciary responsibilities, the University has traditionally not used social or political criteria in selecting investment managers or determining investment mandates.” Considering that fossil fuels have been the most profitable ventures in history and climate politics do not play a part, it is safe to say that the UMS has money there.

Mr. Richards also shared

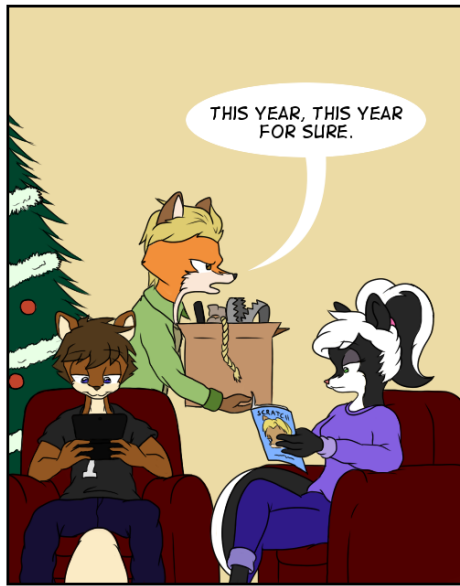
an article, “Why Endowments Should Resist Fossil Fuel Divestments” published by Institutional Investor. After reading it many times, the following lines struck most, “advocates of divestment believe that the primary goal is to take aim at an appealing target in order to ‘make a statement,’ a symbolic gesture ... divesting [is] for ‘moral’ reasons... This message strikes us as a simplistic, arbitrary and unproductive condemnation of fossil fuels and associated industries.” This is simply not the case. It is the self-centered instinct of self-preservation expressed as the future is cannibalized, which ought to be felt by the UMS too, in regard to its finances.

The United Nations set a limit for how much warming we will allow to take place by the end of this century, 2°C above pre-industrial times, 0.8°C of which has already happened, most of it since 1980, according to The Guardian. Rajendra Pachauri, the UN panel chair for the International Panel on Climate Change, recently announced, “Look at the total climate budget to ... not exceed two degrees [warming] ... What’s remaining for us is only 275 gigatons of carbon.” Compare that number to another number reported by Bill McKibben in Rolling Stone in July 2012, the 2,795 gigatons of carbon “contained in the proven coal and oil and gas reserves of

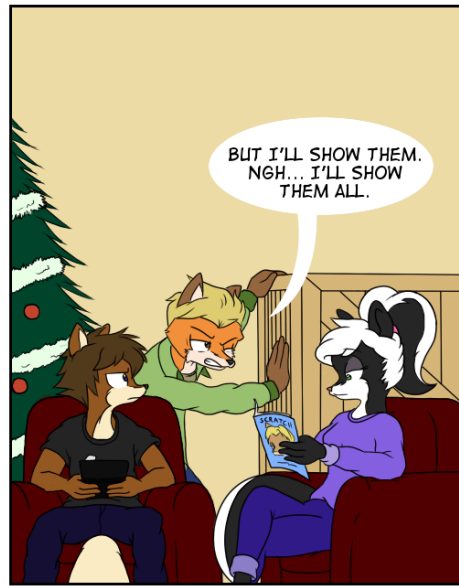
the [world].” Basic arithmetic makes it clear that less than ten percent of the carbon we have already found will be dug up and burned, if the internationally-agreed upon limit is taken seriously. Take it seriously. It implies that 90+% of the assets that fossil fuel companies have their worth valued upon are economically worthless, stranded assets. This is very troubling. It implies, furthermore, that the fossil fuel industry is extremely overvalued. It is a bubble, just like the housing bubble. It is a Carbon Bubble, and the nature of a bubble is to burst.



## Sasha & Nathan IN: FOR WHOM THE BELL TROLLS



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*Happy Holidays!*

# Ferguson unrest returns after grand jury decision

KAT RIDDLER  
NEWS EDITOR

### Cont'd from Page 3, News

On Friday, Missouri Governor Jay Nixon announced there will be funds available to help businesses destroyed during the unrest. There will be \$625,000 of zero interest loans available for businesses. For more information check out the Small Business Relief Program online or by phone at 314-206-3235 or e-mail at [RecoverySTL@stlregionalchamber.com](mailto:RecoverySTL@stlregionalchamber.com). Representatives from the Missouri Department of Insurance are open to answer questions at 800-726-7390. For Missourians who lost their jobs during the Ferguson unrest, they can be eligible for unemployment benefits and should visit [moclaim.mo.gov](http://moclaim.mo.gov).

Governor Nixon also announced Friday that he is calling a Special Session for Missouri Legislature to ensure payment for ongoing operations in Ferguson and elsewhere in the region. The Governor is expected to exceed the estimated budget of \$4 million for National

Guard services and \$3.4 million for the State Emergency Management Agency, which includes the Highway Patrol. The budget covers emergency response events between July 1, 2014 and June 30, 2015. He will be asking the Missouri General Assembly for more money to pay police enforcement and National Guard services for Ferguson and St. Louis region.

On November 28, the annual Ferguson Northern Lights celebration that was to be held on November 30 was postponed.

On Saturday, November 29, Protestors gathered at various intersections like Hampton and Kingshighway. Protestors were also in attendance at the Ferguson Police Department. Darren Wilson resigned November 29 under pressure from outside that threatened the lives of other police officers and community members if he stayed with the Ferguson Police Department.

Demonstrators started a 120-mile march from Ferguson,

at Canfield Apartments where Brown was shot, to the governor's mansion in Jefferson City Saturday afternoon. This march was planned by the NAACP.

Reverend Al Sharpton organized 150 ministers from around the country via conference call to pause during their Sunday services to pray for justice and peace.

On Sunday, November 30, Al Sharpton spoke at Friendly Temple Missionary Baptist Church at 11 a.m., the church where Michael Brown's funeral was held. Sharpton then went to Brown's father's church at 1:30 p.m. The Flood Christian Church was burned down during the night after the grand jury announcement. Sharpton went to help kick off fundraising to rebuild the church.

Ferguson Mayor James Knowles held a press conference to talk about Officer Darren Wilson's resignation. Wilson had been on paid leave of absence since August 9. The mayor announced that Wilson will

not receive a severance package with his resignation. Knowles announced new initiatives will be put into place to bridge the gap between the community and police. A task force to review complaints and provide input on policy and procedures will meet once a week as part of this initiative. The city will implement a multi-point plan to increase minorities in the police department. The Ferguson Police Department's youth outreach program will go to school districts in the area, giving students a chance to meet and interact with police officers next school year.

The police department will also offer scholarships for African-Americans to attend the police academy and scholarship recipients would repay the money over a two-year period with employment in the police department. Ferguson Police Officers will also receive \$100 to \$300 a month for living within the city limits beginning next year. Knowles assured the com-

munity that Ferguson would rebuild after the rioting, fires, and looting that occurred since November 24.

Ferguson will continue to be a major national debate. Protestors want to continue to focus attention on the problems that led to this tragedy. There is still an ongoing federal investigation by the Federal Justice Department. There is also the option for the Brown family to bring civil action against former officer Darren Wilson.

UMSL students will continue to have the opportunity of seeing a major historical event unfolding near the campus. UMSL faculty will continue to be sought out as experts in various fields by a national news media, hungry to drill deeper into this story. And the UMSL administration will continue to offer the services of the university as a forum and catalyst for community dialogue and reconciliation.

# UMSL profits on students' futures burning

ERIC WYNEN  
DESIGN EDITOR

### Cont'd from Page 7, Opinions

A vanguard of investors, aware of the danger of the Carbon Bubble, have already moved to voluntarily divest of fossil fuel energy investments, inspired by the student divestment movement. Scott Wallace, co-chair of the Wallace Global Fund and attorney that served as legal counsel on the Senate Judiciary Subcommittee on Juvenile Justice as well as the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, coordinates the Divest-Invest effort (<http://divestinvest.org/>) that recruits prospective divestees and is a leader of the vanguard. At a press conference this past

September, where \$50 billion of divestments of numerous endowments, including that of the Rockefeller heirs, were being announced, Mr. Wallace said, "to the trustees and the universities and the foundations that are concerned about losing money, concerned about risk...if you like risk, if you want risk, then stay in fossil fuels. That's the risky alternative. If you want a solid financial future, stick your stuff where you're not going to get sued when the Deepwater Horizon blows up in the Gulf and you're not going to lose your market value because of stranded assets, the oil and coal that has to be left in the ground

because we can't afford to burn it." It is a forecast of what is to come.

If UMS keeps its investments in the fossil fuel industry, not only will it be profiting off of the burning of climate security of its students' futures, which in itself negates the security a degree confers, but will catch fire itself once the Carbon Bubble bursts, leaving the university financially ruined. This is the reason why UMS must divest of fossil fuels. Double-damned if you don't and myriad benefits if you do.



400,000 people marched in NYC in September challenging elites on climate